[8th July 1952

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR :—" Would it be possible for the Hon. Minister to tell the House what those hospitals are? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" That will be decided only after the Budget is passed."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR :—" In view of the financial stringency, would it not be in order to defer such provincialization schemes? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The Government were taking over about six institutions every year but this year, the number has been reduced to three."

Working of the system of postal voting.

* 25 Q.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have sent a report to the Election Commission on the working of the system of postal voting in the recent elections to the Legislative Council in this State; and

(b) whether steps will be taken to remedy the defects, if any (vide " Ramarajya ", dated 20th March 1952)?

THE HON. C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) The answer is in the negative.

" (b) The question whether any change is called for in the rules relating to postal ballot, is under the consideration of the Government, and the Government of India who are the rule-making authority under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, will be addressed if any change is considered necessary. The articles in the ' Ramarajya ' referred to by the hon. Member do not suggest any changes in the rules."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR :—" Are the Government aware that many responsible gentlemen do not approve of the scheme of postal ballot and in fact the hon. Sri K. Bhashyam and others have expressed themselves against the system of postal ballot? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I thank the hon. Member for the information."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR :—" Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to convey the opinion expressed by hon. Sri K. Bhashyam and local newspapers to the Government of India for necessary action on their part? ".

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I do not know whether the local newspaper mentioned by the hon. Member is so prominent as to warrant its views being communicated to the Election Commission. With regard to the other suggestion, certainly it will be taken into consideration."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR :—" Owing to the alleged corruption during the elections, will the Government take

8th July 1952]

necessary action to institute a special agency to check corruption at election times, just as we have a special branch to detect cases of corruption among Government servants?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"If there is corruption, the candidates themselves would have taken up the matter if it was possible to prove it."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR :—"Would it not be proper on the part of the Government to take action *suo motu*?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"If specific instances are brought to the notice of the Government, certainly the Government will take necessary action."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR :—"Would it not be better to institute an agency to detect corruption during election time instead of having a post-mortem dissection on corruption after the elections are over?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"When the next elections take place, the suggestion will be considered."

SRI V. GURUNANDAN ROW :—"Are the Government aware that the ballot paper has a number on it which corresponds to the number of the voter on the electoral roll and therefore the secrecy of the ballot could not be observed on that account?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"It is a matter of inference which the hon. Member may draw for himself."

SRI V. GURUNANDAN ROW :—"Will the Hon. the Minister be pleased to state whether the report on the election to the Union Government will be made?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"We are making a report and we have suggested very many changes so that there may be fair elections."

SRI V. GURUNANDAN ROW :—"Will a copy of the Report be placed on the table of the House when it is ready?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"It will not be proper for us to place on the table or to furnish particulars of the report we have made to the Central Government with regard to this."

SRI S. RAMAKRISHNIAH :—"Is the Hon. the Minister for Finance aware of the fact that the Presidents of certain District Boards in Andhra have issued circulars to all the voters in the Board High Schools through the headmasters concerned, demanding the handing over of their ballot papers to them and that the said circulars after the signatures of the voters have been called back to their office?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"It has not been brought to the notice of the Government."

[8th July 1952

SRI S. RAMAKRISHNIAH :—" May I know if the Hon. Minister is aware of reports in certain newspapers that the presidents of certain district boards and Commissioners of some municipalities took away ballot papers from the teachers working under their management on pain of severe punishment and handed over the same to their favoured candidates? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I had not the advantage of looking into those newspapers."

SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" I would like to say a word by way of personal explanation with regard to certain observations that fell from the hon. Member Sri Purushothama Mudaliar. In one of my speeches, I only said that according to the postal system of voting, there was a good deal of irregularity but I never said that there was corruption or anything like that."

Special concessions to political sufferers.

* 26 Q.—SRI S. B. ADITYAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that special concessions were shown to political sufferers in granting permits for purchase or sale of iron and steel;

(b) if so, what the nature of the concessions is and when did the concessions come into force; and

(c) how many permits for iron and steel quota were granted to political sufferers during 1948–49, 1949–50, 1950–51 and 1951–52?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (a) & (b) In 1948 a few political sufferers were exempted from the condition that they should have been in the trade prior to 1946. The concession came into force from 1949–50.

" (c) A statement showing the details indicating the categories and the quantities issued from 1949–50 to June 1952 is laid on the table of the House."

4-15 p.m. SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether it was also a condition that they should continue to belong to the Congress Party before they qualify themselves for these special permits? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I do not think so, Sir. The records do not show any such thing."

SRI V. GURUNANDAN ROW :—" How many permits were given to others including ex-military men? "

* Printed as Appendix on pages 236–239 infra.